

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for making a toothbrush head for a toothbrush which comprises a head and a grip handle and having a head-handle longitudinal direction, the head having a first surface in which bristles are mounted and an opposite second surface on which there is an elastomer material part comprising plural ribs each having an elongate direction across the longitudinal direction, and extending from the second surface in a height direction perpendicular to a plane between the first and second surfaces;

said process comprising; providing a plastic material head part having the first surface in which bristles are mounted or are to be mounted, and having the opposite surface on which an elastomer material part is to be formed, enclosing the head part in an injection mould cavity formed by combination of a first and second part mould cavity formed in respective first and second mould blocks which mate at a primary split line, the injection mould cavity defining at least part of the shape of the elastomer part comprising plural ribs each having an elongate direction across the longitudinal direction, and extending from the second surface in a height direction perpendicular to a plane between the first and second surfaces to be formed, introducing a thermoplastic elastomer material into the injection mould cavity;

causing said elastomer material to flow into the injection mould cavity such that the elastomer material enters the parts of the mould cavity that define said ribs from ends of those parts which are on transversely opposite sides of the head-handle longitudinal direction to thereby form the elastomer material part;

wherein the first part mould cavity encloses at least part of the first surface and the second part mould cavity encloses at least part of the second surface and defines at least part of the elastomer part to be formed, and the second mould block comprises at least two part second mould blocks which mate at a second mould block split line which extends in the toothbrush longitudinal direction and intersects said parts of the mould cavity that define said ribs to provide communication between said parts and the outside of the mould, said second mould block split line comprising the means to allow air trapped by the elastomer material as it flows from said transversely opposite parts of the mould cavity to vent from the injection mould cavity during introduction of the thermoplastic elastomer material into the injection mould cavity other than via the primary split line.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for making a toothbrush head by a process according to claim 1, comprising: an injection mould which comprises first and second mould blocks which include a respective first and second part mould cavity and which mate at a primary split line, so that the part mould cavities combine to form a mould cavity suitable to enclose a plastic material head part having a first surface in which bristles are mounted or are to be mounted, and having an opposite surface on which an elastomer material part comprising plural ribs each having an elongate direction across the longitudinal direction, and extending from the second surface in a height direction perpendicular to a plane between the first and second surfaces is to be formed, the first and second surfaces being distanced by a side surface, the mould cavity defining at least part of the elastomer part to be formed;

the injection mould being ~~adapted~~ provided with an injection port for introduction of a thermoplastic elastomer material into the second mould cavity via said port to thereby form the elastomer material part;

wherein the first part mould cavity is adapted to enclose at least part of the first surface and the second part mould cavity is adapted to enclose at least part of the second surface and to define at least part of the elastomer part to be formed;

said second part mould cavity having parts which define the shape of said ribs, said parts having ends which are on transversely opposite sides of the head-handle longitudinal direction, said injection port being positioned such that elastomer material injected therethrough is caused to flow into the injection mould cavity such that the elastomer material enters the parts of the mould cavity that define said ribs and is caused to flow in transversely opposite directions from said ends of those parts which are on transversely opposite sides of the head-handle longitudinal direction;

and second mould block ~~which~~ comprises at least two part second mould blocks which mate at a second mould block split line which extends in the toothbrush longitudinal direction and intersects said parts of the mould cavity that define said ribs to provide communication between said parts and the outside of the mould, said second mould block split line comprising the means to allow air trapped by the elastomer material as it flows from said transversely opposite parts of the mould cavity to vent from the injection mould cavity during introduction of the thermoplastic elastomer material into the injection mould cavity other than via the primary split line.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the first and second mould blocks mate at a primary split line which, when the head part is enclosed in the mould cavity, intersects the head part at the edge surface, between the first and second surfaces.

9. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the fluid thermoplastic elastomer material is injected into the injection mould cavity at a temperature of 240 - 260°C.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 9 wherein subsequent to the injection of the thermoplastic elastomer material into the injection mould cavity the head part with the so-formed elastomer material part is ejected from the mould cavity at a temperature between 30 - 40°C.